



## 2021 WINTER SPORTS Preview

SPORT: BOYS HOCKEY



2019-2020 CHAMPION - BRANFORD HORNETS

### TENTATIVE PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 18 to Saturday, March 27 - All Sites/Time TBA**

*First Round – Thursday, March 18 (D2 – 11 at 6, 10 at 7, 9 at 8);*

*Quarterfinals – Saturday, March 20 (D1 – top seed gets bye; D3 – top 2 seeds get byes);*

*Semifinals – Tuesday, March 23 (D1 and D3); Wednesday, March 24 (D2);*

*Championship Games – Friday, March 26 (D1) and Saturday, March 27 (D2 and D3);*

*Consolation Week – March 22 to 28 – Teams that lose in the first round/quarterfinal round, can play additional games.*

## SCC DIVISION 2 HOCKEY PREVIEWS

**Note: Previews only available for full-status SCC Schools**

**Division II (11 teams):** Amity Regional, Branford, Cheshire, Daniel Hand, East Haven/Old Lyme/Old Saybrook/East Hampton co-op, Guilford, Lyman Hall/HK/Coginchaug co-op, North Branford, North Haven, Sheehan, Watertown-Pomperaug



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Amity Spartans

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** 3rd at Amity (23<sup>rd</sup> total)

**2021 Captains:** Not selected yet, team vote

**Top Returners:**

**Seniors:** Justin Miller F, Tommy Schittina F, Caleb Marcin D, Jason Dittmann D, Dylan Gherlone D

**Sophomores:** Brendan Smith G, Aiden Courtney G

**2021 Season Outlook:** Looking to build off of last season. Upper class heavy, looking for their leadership. Team goal: stay healthy and play as many games as possible.



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Branford

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Jim DiNapoli (4th year as Head Coach/3 years as Assistant Coach)

**2021 Captains:** Jared Yakimoff C, Declan Ross C, Sawyer Moriarty A

**Top Returners:**

Jared Yakimoff Sr Goaltender/SCC 2<sup>nd</sup> team/MVP SCC Tournament  
Bill Linder Sr Defenseman  
Dan Farricielli Sr Forward  
Sawyer Moriarty Sr Forward  
Matt Morgan So Forward

**2021 Season Outlook:**

Thankful to be playing. Everyday we get on the ice will be cherished!



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Cheshire

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Anthony Giusto (7th year as Head Coach; 11 years total with Cheshire HS)

**2021 Captains:** Niklas Vasiljevs (C), Thor Novicelli (A), Aiden Gaudet (A)

**Top Returners:**

Niklas Vasiljevs – F – Sr – 13g, 11a, 24p – leading scorer in 2019-2020. 4-year varsity player. Returning captain.

Aiden Gaudet – F – Sr – 7g, 13a, 20p – 3-year varsity player;

Thor Novicelli – F – Sr – 7g, 8a, 15p – 3-year varsity player

**2021 Season Outlook:**

Returning our top three leading scorers (listed above) from a year ago, we expect to be a more offensive team than last year where we relied on defense and goaltending to win games. Inexperience on defense and goaltending this year will be a challenge but we have plenty of young players to step up and fill key roles. Our message this year is things can change day by day. Everyone on our roster should be ready to step up and contribute as on any given day, an opportunity may arise.



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Daniel Hand Tigers

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Brian Gonsalves (3<sup>rd</sup> Season)

**2021 Captains:** (SR) Tate Fitzmaurice, (SR) John Gagliardi, (SR) Teddy Licari, (SR) Eric Dillner

**Top Returners:**

SR F Tate Fitzmaurice 21GP 30 Goals 37 Assists 67 Points (1<sup>st</sup> Team All-SCC & All-State);

SR F Ethan Massey 20GP 16 Goals 16 Assists 32 Points;

SR F Logan Massey 22GP 13 Goals 12 Assists 25 Points;

SR D John Gagliardi 22GP 6 Goals 19 Assists 25 Points (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-SCC);

SR G Eric Dillner 22 Starts 1.50 GAA .940 SV% 5 Shutouts

**2021 Season Outlook:**

We have 18 returning players from last season (8 seniors). First goal of the season is to stay safe and healthy. The program's mentality this season is to take nothing for granted and to be grateful each day for the opportunity to be back at the rink.



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** East Haven

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Lou Pane (34th year)

**2021 Captains:** Rocco Plano, Dave Amatruda, and Cory Benni

**Top Returners:**

Rocco Plano - Senior defenseman 4-year starter; Had 3 goals and 5 assists last year;  
Dave Amatruda - Senior forward ; Had 17 goals and 3 assists last year;  
Cory Benni - Senior forward; Had 3 goals and 8 assists last year;  
Duncan Rider - Junior forward; Had 13 points last season with two game-winning goals;  
Ethan Roach - Junior goaltender with outstanding skill;  
Cam Grillo - Newcomer who is expected to be one of the elite defensemen in the league.

### **2021 Season Outlook:**

Our team goal is to have a safe and winning season with the hope of being the SCC Division 2 champions.



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Guilford High School

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Ralph Russo (20th season)

**2021 Captains:** Steven Tortora

### **Top Returners:**

Steven Tortora 2021 Defense

Steven is in his third year with the program and in his 2nd year as a starting defenseman. Steven, our 2021 team captain, is a high energy player who shows great anticipation, agility and defensive skills. His 3 goals and 10 assists last season and positive plus minus make him the leader of our defense. His sportsmanship and work ethic make him a natural team leader.

Michael Torre 2022 Forward

Michael is in his 2nd year playing with GHS Hockey and scored 4 goals 4 assists last season. As a strong skater with experience, he should be ready for a solid season.

Shane Considine 2023 Defense

Shane logged the most time on defense last season with Steven Tortora. He shows a very advanced skill set for a sophomore. Shane competed well last year as a freshman against the best players we faced.

Will Petrick 2023 Forward

Will has good size and strength as an underclassman. He played regularly last season as a freshman so we are hoping he will build on his success from last year

### Zach Sperry 2021 Center

Zach has outstanding reflexes and a quick shot which we hope make him a scoring threat this season. We are hoping he can help our team win face-offs, play sound defensively, and generate offense.

### Thomas Ring 2021 Forward

Thomas showed tremendous improvement last season after being out of hockey for a couple of seasons. He is the youngest of four brothers to have played Guilford High School Hockey. He is an enthusiastic team member and an awesome competitor.

### Kent Mackowiak 2021 Forward

In his second year with the team, Kent has strength, size, speed, and great hands. We are hoping he can step up and provide solid play for his senior campaign.

### **2021 Season Outlook:**

After graduating the three highest goal scorers in school history in the past three years (Jack Ring, Jack Dacey, and John DeLucia), our program will focus on playing a solid and balanced team approach. We are hoping this season will be a great development opportunity for our underclassmen and a competitive campaign for our seniors. This season, every day of hockey is a gift. Let's play!



**SPORT:** Boy's Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Lyman Hall

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Dave Sagnella (2nd year)

**2021 Captains:** Aidan Weir (C) Tommy Ralston (A) Ryan Brockett (A)

### **Top Returners:**

Aidan Weir (Sr, F) 4G 14A 18 pts last season

Ryan Brockett (Sr, D) 4G 10A 14pts last season

Tommy Ralston (Sr, F) 3G 10A 13 pts last season

Jack Roberts (Jr, F) 12G 16A 28 pts last season

### **2021 Season Outlook:**



Lyman Hall will be a selfless team this upcoming season. Our goal is to outwork opponents in all three zones of the ice. We will all work together for the common goal of competing for an SCC championship. After last season ending abruptly, we are going to cherish every day we have on the ice together and make the most of our opportunity. A lot of players who have not logged many minutes in the past will have to step up and help continue the upward trend of Lyman Hall Hockey.



**SPORT:** Boys Ice Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** North Haven

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** Chris Avena (3rd – 18th overall)

**2021 Captains:** Nick Howlett, Will Fiore, Andrew Sacco, Eli Brubacher

**Top Returners:**

Andrew Sacco – G – Sr 92% save percentage, 2.0 GAA 9-5-3 record;

Aaron Racino – C – Sr 13-8-21 pts;

Eli Brubacher – W – SR – 8-13-21 pts;

Mason Sullivan – W – SR – 10-3-13 pts;

Will Fiore – W – SR – 8-4-12 pts;

Nick Howlett – D – SR 2-1-3 pts;

Justin Marks – D – SR.

**2021 Season Outlook:**

We return 20 players from last year's roster that played for a SCC title and were still alive in the state tournament when it was canceled. In a year where meeting as a team and going over systems and film study will be challenging and different than any other season, our experience should be an advantage. Also, our depth at every position will benefit us. Next man up mentality is something we are preparing for and preaching. We are ALL IN!



**SPORT:** Hockey

**SCHOOL NAME:** Sheehan

**Head Coach (# of years coaching):** David Festa (11th year)

**2021 Captains:** Anthony Romano, Luke Festa with Joe Romano and Joe Richo as Alternates

**Top Returners:**

Anthony Romano - SCC honors, All-State;

Joe Romano - SCC honors, All-State;

Luke Festa - SCC, All-State;

Joe Richo;

Anthony Defilio

**2021 Season Outlook:**

With a lot of returning players, the outlook is bright - only losing 1 player in the top 5 of scoring from last year. Returning all defensemen and goalies, the experience and motivation is very high given that the D3 State tournament was cut short by the CIAC last year. The Sheehan hockey team will boost the competition level by moving up to play in the D2 SCC-SWC conference this year and will call Northford their "home" ice for 2021.